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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FOLLOWING CABLE FROM AMCONSUL BELFAST

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, UK (N.I.)
SUBJ: FAULKNERITES HAVE MOMENTUM, BUT....

SUMMARY: FAULKNERITE UNIONISTS HAVE ESTABLISHED NEW ORGANIZATION WHICH IS INTENDED TO LEAD WITHIN A FEW MONTHS TO NEW PARTY. FAULKNERITES ARE CRITICIZING DUBLIN FOR WAFFLING ON SECURITY AND RECOGNITION, AND EXPLICITLY THREATEN TO STALL COUNCIL OF IRELAND UNTIL DUBLIN DELIVERS. THEY THINK THAT DUBLIN WON'T PRODUCE, THAT COUNCIL OF IRELAND WILL BE DELAYED, AND THAT SDLP WILL NONETHELESS NOT LEAVE EXECUTIVE. MEANWHILE, MODERATE JOURNAL SUGGESTS FAULKNER'S USEFULNESS HAS ENDED. LOYALISTS ARE PLANNING ACTIVE WEEK OF MANIFESTATIONS AGAINST EXECUTIVE AND SUNNINGDALE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A SERIES OF SPECTUCLAR MOVES OVER PAST SEVERAL DAYS, FAULKNERITE UNIONISTA HVE MOVED TO ESTABLISH SEPARATE ORGANIZATION WHITIN UNIONIST PARTY. ASSEMBLY UNIONIST PARTY (WHICH FAULKNER STILL LEADS) HAS SET UP SECRETARIAT IN OFFICE BUILDING IN DOWNTOWN BELFAST. OVER WEEKEND, SIX OF REMAINING TEN OFFICERS OF PARTY RESIGNED IN SUPPORT OF FAULKNER. ALMOST ENTIRE HEADQUARTERS STAFF
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MOVED OUT OF GLENGALL STREET OFFICES INTO THE NEW ONES. IT IS

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REPORTED THAT PARTY'S WOMEN'S AFFILIATE, AND 20-25 OF 51 OLD
STORMONT CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATIONS WILL SWITCH TO FAULKNERITE
ORGANIZATION.

2. FAULKNER'S PRESS OFFICER TOLD US JAN 14 THAT ALL THIS HAS BEEN
PLANNED FOR MONTHS IN ANCICIPATION OF UNIONIST COUNCIL DEFEAT OF
FAULKNER'S POWER-SHARING POLITICES. SOURCE EXPECTS THAT WITHIN NEXT
SEVERAL MONTHS, AS ORGANIZATION IS FIRMED UP AND UNIONIST GRASS
ROOTS COME AROUND, ORGANIZATION WILL FORMALLY BECOME A NEW PARTY.
SPECULATION IS THAT PARTY WILL BE CALLED SOMETHING LIKE "UNIONIST
PARTY OF NORTHERN IRELAND" AND WILL RETAIN LINK WITH BRITISH
CONSERVATIVE PARTY. VARIOUS UNIONIST MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE, AND OTHER
MODERATE AND LIBERAL UNIONISTS, PROFESS TO BE GREATLY RELIEVED
AND HAPPY THAT FAULKNER HAS FINALLY BROKEN FROM DEAD HAND OF
ORANGE ORDER AND PROTESTANT ASCENDANCY, AND CAN PURSUE
ENLIGHTENED POLICIES WITHOUT BEING CALLED TO ACCOUNT BY
UNIONIST COUNCIL EVERY FEW WEEKS.

3. MEANWHILE, DUBLIN GOVERNMENT'S ARGUMENT IN IRISH SUPREME
COURT THAT SUNNINGDALE COMMUNIQUE DOES NOT RECORD ANY BRITISH-
IRISH AGREEMEN THAT WOULD PREJUDICE DUBLIN'S CONSTITUTIONAL
RIGHT TO EXERCISE JURISDICTION OVER NORTH HAS PROVIDED FURTHER
AMMUNITION TO OPPONENTS OF SUNNINGDALE AGREEMENT, WHICH ISKEY
ELEMENT OF FAULKNER'S POLITICIES. INDEED,
FAULKNERITES THEMSELVES HAVE BECOME DISILLUSIONED WITH DUBLIN
GOVERNMENT IN PRIVATE AS WELL AS PUBLIC. OVER WEEKEND, FAULKNER
SAID THAT, IF DUBLIN NOW WISHES TO PUT "DIFFERENT
INTERPRETATION" ON PARAGRAPH 5 OF SUNNINGDALE COMMUNIQUE, "WE WILL
REQUIRE COMPLETE CLARIFICATION OF THE WHOLE MATTER BEFORE THERE CAN
BE FORMAL SIGNING OF THE SUNNINGDALE AGREEMENT." (UNIONIST)
ENVIRONMENT MINISTER ROY BRADFORD SAID THAT STUDIES ON EXECUTIVE
FUNCTIONS OF COUNCIL OF IRELAND ARE RELATED TO THOSE ON
BRINING TERRORISTS TO JUSTICE; DUBLIN CAN'T HAVE ONE
WITHOUT THE OTHER. HE TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT HE DOES NOT
BELIEVE DUBLIN HAS POLITICAL WILL OR ABILITY TO DELIVER ON
RECOGNITION AND SECURITY, THAT HE IS PREPARED TO REJECT COUNCIL OF
IRELAND UNTIL THEY DO, AND THAT SDLP WILL NOT WITHDRAW FROM
EXECUTIVE ON COUNCIL OF IRELAND ISSUE. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT
THIS WOULD INDEED PRESENT SDLP WITH EXCRUCIATING DILEMMA; SDLP
MINISTERS ARE DELIGHTED, ALMOST EUPHORIC, ABOUT OPPORTUNITY
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TO EXERCISE EXECTUIVE POWER IN NORTH.

4. FAULKNER'S FAILURE TO CARRY UNIONIST COUNCIL IN SUPPORT
OF HIS POLICIES HAS NOW PROVOKED AN ATTACK ON HIM FROM HIS
LEFT. MODERATE "FORTNIGHT" MAGAZINE ARGUES IN JANUARY 11 ISSUE THAT
WHAT WAS HIS MAIN POLITICAL ASSET -- HIS DEEP ORANGE"UNIONIST ROOTS
AND THE APPARENT RELUCTANCE AND PRAGMATISM OF HIS ACCEPTANCE OF
POWER-SHARING -- HAS BECOME A LIABILITY NOW THAT THE TASK IS NOT TO

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CAJORE TRADITIONAL UNIONISTS ALONG, BUT TO ESTABLISH A NEW MODERATE PARTY. SUCH A PARTY, FORTNIGHTHIUGGESTS, COULD OBTAIN MORE SUPPORT IF LED BY "SOMEONE LIKE ROY BRADFORD" WHO IS "NO LESS ABLE" THAN FAULKNER BUT PERCEIVED AS A MORE GENUINE MODERATE.

5. LOYALISTS ARE NOW PREPARING A WEEK OF ATTACK ON SUNNINGDALE AND POWER-SHARING. ON JANUARY 15 THEY PLAN TO LAUNCH A PETITION, IN THE TRADITION OF THE 1912 "ULSTER COVENANT," REJECTING THE PRESENT CONSTITUTION ACT, WHICH THEY HOPE WOULD BE SIGNED BY AS MANY AS 400,000 ULSTER PEOPLE. ON JANUARY 16 STREET DEMONSTRATIONS IN BELFAST AND ELSEWHERE IN THE NORTH WILL PROTEST THE FIRST MEETING OF THE ANGLO-IRISH LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION IN BELFAST. ON JANUARY 21 THE UNIONIST STANDING COMMITTEE WILL NAME A NEW PARTY LEADER. JANUARY 22 WILL SEE FIRST POST-EXECUTIVE SITTING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY, AND LOYALISTS MAY REIST BEING MOVED FROM THEIR CUSTOMARY SEATS AT THE RIGHT OF THE SPEAKER, WHICH SHOULD NOW BE OCCUPIED BY THE EXECUTIVE, OR MAY OTHERWISE ATTEMPT TO DISRUPTE ASSEMBLY. PRO-EXECUTIVE ASSEMBLYMEN HAVE TABLED MOTION FOR JANUARY 23 EMPOWERING SPEAKER TO SUSPEND UNRULY ASSEMBLYMEN, AND THI
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